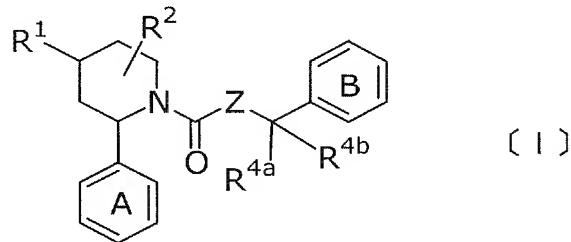


Amendments to the Claims

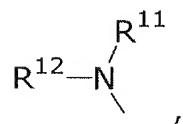
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Piperidine compound represented by the formula [I] :



wherein Ring A represents a benzene ring optionally substituted by a substituent(s), Ring B represents a benzene ring optionally substituted by a substituent(s), R¹ represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, a substituted thiol group, a substituted carbonyl group, a substituted sulfinyl group, a substituted sulfonyl group, or a group represented by the formula:



R¹¹ represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, R¹² represents hydrogen atom or an

optionally substituted alkyl group, R² represents hydrogen atom, ~~an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an amino group optionally substituted by a substituent(s), an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom,~~ Z represents oxygen atom or a group represented by -N(R³)-, R³ represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl ~~a methyl group, R^{4a} represents an optionally substituted alkyl-a methyl group, R^{4b} represents an optionally substituted alkyl-a methyl group,~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is an optionally substituted alkyl group.

Claim 3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a ~~an~~ optionally substituted hydroxyl group.

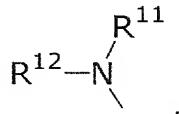
Claim 4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is thiol group substituted by a substituent(s).

Claim 5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a substituted carbonyl group.

Claim 6. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a substituted sulfinyl group.

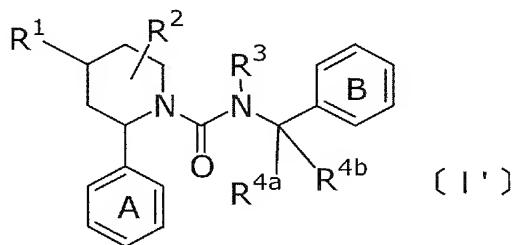
Claim 7. (Original) The compound according to
Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a substituted sulfonyl group.

Claim 8. (Original) The compound according to
Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a group represented by the formula:

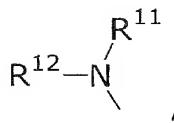


R¹¹ represents a substituted carbonyl group or a
substituted sulfonyl group, and R¹² represents hydrogen atom or
an optionally substituted alkyl group.

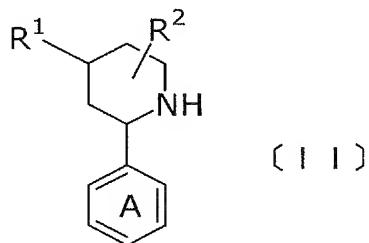
Claim 9. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a
piperidine compound represented by the formula [I']:



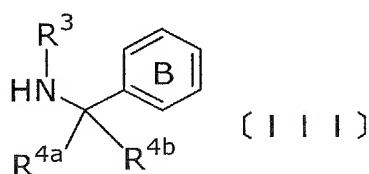
wherein Ring A represents an optionally substituted
benzene ring, Ring B represents an optionally substituted
benzene ring, R¹ represents an optionally substituted alkyl
group, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, a substituted
thiol group, a substituted carbonyl group, a substituted
sulfinyl group, a substituted sulfonyl group, or a group
represented by the formula:



R^{11} represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, R^{12} represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^2 represents hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom, R^3 represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4a} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4b} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula [II]:



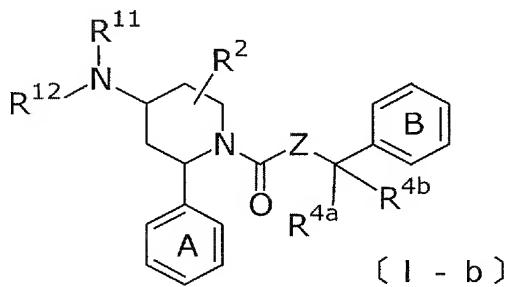
wherein Ring A, R^1 and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above, and a compound represented by the formula [III]:



wherein Ring B, R³, R^{4a} and R^{4b} have the same meanings as defined above,

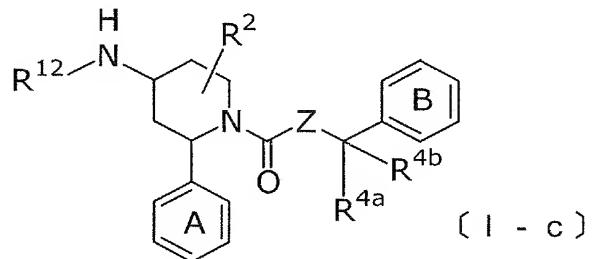
in the presence of a urea bond forming agent, and then, converting it into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, if necessary.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a piperidine compound represented by the formula [I-b]:



wherein Ring A represents an optionally substituted benzene ring, Ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring, R¹¹ represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, R¹² represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, R² represents hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom, Z represents oxygen atom or a group represented by -N(R³)-, R³ represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl

group, R^{4a} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, R^{4b} represents an optionally substituted alkyl group,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula [I-c] :



wherein Ring A, Ring B, R^{12} , R^2 , Z , R^{4a} and R^{4b} have the same meanings as defined above,

and a compound represented by the formula [VI] :



wherein R^{11} has the same meaning as defined above,
and X^2 represents an eliminating group,

and then, converting it into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, if necessary.